

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee Charter

Adopted: February 2021; Updated December 2021; updated March 26, 2024

Vision: What’s the overarching vision for the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS)?

The JJRS’ vision is to transform the way we serve youth who were, or would have been, committed to the California Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Through the JJRS’ work, we seek to help these youth re-enter their communities prepared for successful, self-sufficient, and crime-free participation in their communities. For the remainder of this Charter, these youth will be referred to as “Secured Youth Treatment Facility SYTF Youth” or “SYTF Youth.”

We will do this by:

- Keeping youth close to family and natural supports;
- Building prosocial skills and connections;
- Assuring youth receive treatment services that they need, including mental health, substance use and trauma-informed, gender specific services;
- Safely preventing transfer to or later entry into the adult criminal justice system; and
- Meaningfully addressing racial inequities.

Goals and Objectives: What are the main purposes of the JJRS?

As described in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 1995, the JJRS is a subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) that shall develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for youth who formerly would have been sent to DJJ.

To support this goal, the Probation Department’s Juvenile Division will provide program planning information for review by the Subcommittee.

Scope and Boundaries: What are the expectations of the JJRS’s responsibilities? What boundaries exist related to their roles or functions?

From WIC Section 1995: The plan shall include all of the following elements:

- A description of the realignment target population in the county that is to be supported or served by allocations from the block grant program, including the numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including their ages, offense and offense histories, gender, race or ethnicity, and other characteristics, and by the programs, placements, or facilities to which they are referred.
- A description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population.
- A description of how grant funds will be applied to address each of the following areas of need or development for SYTF Youth:
 - Mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs.
 - Support programs or services that promote the healthy adolescent development.
 - Family engagement in programs.
 - Reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education.
 - Evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive.

- Whether and how the plan will include services or programs for SYTF Youth that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers.
- A detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine youth at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. This element of the plan shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics.
- A description of how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of youth within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system in lieu of transfers of youth into the adult criminal justice system.
- A description of any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported by the block grant allocation pursuant to this chapter.
- A description of how data will be collected on the youth served and outcomes for youth served by the block grant program, including a description of the outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds.

Roles and Responsibilities: Who participates and in what ways?

As described in WIC Section 1995: The Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee shall be composed of the Chief Probation Officer, as chair or cochair, and one representative each from the district attorney’s office, the public defender’s office, the department of social services, the department of mental health, the county office of education or a school district, and a representative from the court. The subcommittee shall also include no fewer than three community members who shall be defined as individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system. Any voting member may be selected as cochair of the JJRS using a process determined by the JJRS.

Bylaws: As described in WIC Section 1995, the JJRS is a created under the JJCC. The JJRS’ rules for organization, business, and affairs fall under the JJCC Bylaws (revised 1/23/2024).

Members:

- Chair: The Chief Probation Officer or their designee
- Cochair: Any voting member of the JJRS, not presently employed with the Sonoma County Probation Department

One representative each from the following organizations:

- District Attorney’s Office
- Public Defender’s Office
- Department of Human Services, Family, Youth and Children’s Division
- Behavioral Health Division of the Health Department
- Sonoma County Office of Education
- No fewer than three Community Members with experience providing community-based services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system, or who have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system.
- A representative of the court which may include Juvenile Court Judges.

Each included Department, agency, or organization must provide the Probation Department with the name and contact information of its designee to the JJRS, in advance of attendance. Appointments of community members to the JJRS are made by the JJCC. Youth members may be accompanied by an adult support who

meets the community member criteria above.

As needed, additional staff from the Probation Department will attend to provide information to the JJRS to support the planning process.

Communication Protocols: How does the JJRS communicate internally and communicate with other teams or entities? How is communication facilitated and how often?

- Agendas and review material will be provided by the Probation Department in advance of each JJRS meeting.
- Meeting Minutes will be recorded by the Probation staff, approved at the subsequent meeting by the JJRS, and posted online in compliance with the Brown Act.
- Communication of the Plan to the County Board of Supervisors and to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration will be facilitated by the Probation Department.
- Plans will be posted publicly on Probation's website.

Resources available to the project: What resources are available to support the work? What resources are important to document in the charter?

- Probation's Program Development Team creating program and service options for the SYTF Youth.
- PIE Team planning, implementation, and evaluation support
- Probation's WebEx, Zoom, or Teams virtual meeting platform and SoCo Cloud document storage, if wanted.
- Guidance from the Chief Probation Officers of California and the Judicial Council of California on the implementation of SB 823, AB 505, and any other future legislative changes.
- Analyses on the needs of youth that were, or would have been, committed to DJJ as required by the oversight agency. Reviews, as needed, of relevant evidence-based and evidence-informed services for consideration in the program.
- Ongoing Juvenile Justice Realignment funding

Authority: Over what decisions or processes does the team have authority? What are the limits of the team's authority?

Under WIC Section 1995, the JJRS creates the plan with the assistance of the Program Development Team, or other subgroups it develops. Decisions about the types of services to implement are within the JJRS' authority. Decisions about which Community Based Organizations receive funding to provide services are not within the JJRS' authority. Contract awards are made via a competitive process subject to the County's purchasing rules.

The JJCC and the JJRS are public meetings under the [Brown Act](#). Items subject to a vote at any JJRS meeting are subject to the JJCC Bylaws and require a quorum. A quorum is one-half the number of acting, voting JJRS members, plus one.

Deliverables: What are expected deliverables of the JJRS and its members?

- Annual JJRS Plan updates, beginning in 2023 for submission to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration by May 1.

Implementation Plans: Are there specific stage-based activities related to implementation components that should be included in the charter?

Implementation plans will be managed by Probation's Program Development Team with assistance from the Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation Team. These will include the following:

- Policy Development
- Selection of interventions
- Training & coaching plan
- Set up data collection
- Improvement cycles
- Program evaluation: plan and carry out